UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, February 2, 2026

I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 11

From Pasadena Now: *A Los Angeles Superior Court judge questioned Thursday whether the [Pasadena] City's advance breach claim that UCLA signaled it would abandon the Rose Bowl years before its stadium agreement expires fits within the contract's narrow arbitration clause. Judge Joseph Lipner took the matter under submission after oral arguments last week. City officials are now awaiting a ruling on the motion, which could ultimately open the door for UCLA to move its football games from the Rose Bowl to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood... City attorneys argue that mechanism applies only to routine, curable performance issues, not to efforts to terminate the agreement...*

UCLA currently pays no rent to play at the Rose Bowl and does not receive revenue from the stadium's luxury suites... Even if the judge orders arbitration, UCLA could still face substantial financial penalties if it ultimately leaves the Rose Bowl.

Full story at https://pasadenanow.com/main/judge-questions-whether-pasadena-ucla-dispute-belongs-in-arbitration.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 241

From the Yale Daily News: *This academic year, some English professors have increased their preference for physical copies of readings, citing concerns related to artificial intelligence. Many English professors have identified the use of chatbots as harmful to critical thinking and writing.*

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
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- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 48. The Faculty's Budget Fight at UCLA - 2/23/2026
- Liner Note 47. Did The Atlantic's Anti-Woke Bias Spoil its Analysis of Humanities Funding Death? - 2/16/2026
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- UC-AFT

Topics

Now, professors who had previously allowed screens in class are tightening technology restrictions. Professor Kim Shirkhani, who teaches "Reading and Writing the Modern Essay," explained that for about a decade prior to this semester, she did not require printed readings. This semester, she is requiring all students to have printed options. "Over the years I've found that when students read on paper they're more likely to read carefully, and less likely in a pinch to read on their phones or rely on chatbot summaries," Shirkhani wrote to the News. "This improves the quality of class time by orders of magnitude."

...Last semester, professor Pamela Newton, who also teaches the course, allowed students to bring readings either on tablets or in printed form. While laptops felt like a "wall" in class, Newton said, students could use iPads to annotate readings and lie them flat on the table during discussions. However, Newton said she felt "paranoid" that students could be texting during class. This semester, Newton has removed the option to bring iPads to class, except for accessibility needs, as a part of the general movement in the "Reading and Writing the Modern Essay" seminars to "swim against the tide of AI use," reduce "the infiltration of tech," and "go back to pen and paper," she said...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/english-professors-double-down-on-requiring-printed-copies-of-readings.

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From the Yale Daily News: *University presidents from around the country gathered at Yale [last] Tuesday for an annual summit that included a presentation of awards to Harvard President Alan Garber and former University of Virginia President James Ryan '88 — both of whom received national attention last year for their public clashes with President Donald Trump amid his crackdown on elite higher education.*

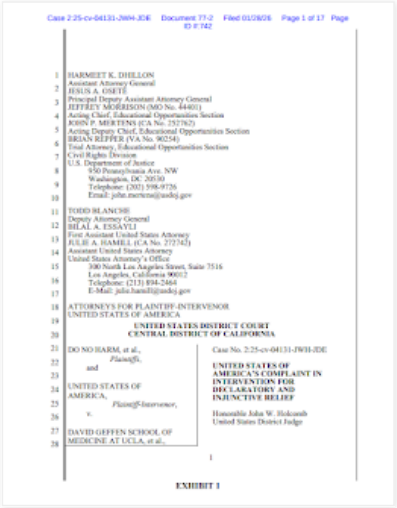
Last year, as the federal government tried to pressure Garber and Ryan into reforming their respective universities' policies, Yale comparatively flew under Trump's radar. Amid Trump's pervasive criticism of higher education, [Yale] University President Maurie McInnis — one of the presenters of Tuesday's awards — prioritized behind-the-scenes advocacy in Washington, D.C., over issuing public statements, in accordance with the guidance she adopted in October 2024 that recommends administrators largely refrain from making public statements on current events...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/university-leaders-convene-at-yale-honoring-two-who-clashed-with-trump.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics, U of Virginia, Yale

DOJ files brief to join private lawsuit concerning UCLA med school admissions


Case 2:25-cv-04131-JWH-JDE Document 77-2 Filed 01/28/26 Page 1 of 17 Page ID #:742

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
JESUS A. OSETE
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
JEFFREY MORRISON (MO No. 44401)
Acting Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
JOHN P. MERTENS (CA No. 252762)
Acting Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section
BRIAN REFFER (VA No. 90254)
Trial Attorney, Educational Opportunities Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 598-9726
Email: john.mertens@usdoj.gov

TODD BLANCHE
Deputy Attorney General
BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attorney
JULIE A. HAMILL (CA No. 272743)
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7516
Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 894-2464
E-Mail: julie.hamill@usdoj.gov

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DO NO HARM, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Intervenor,
v.
DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA, et al.,

Case No. 2:25-cv-04131-JWH-JDE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S COMPLAINT IN INTERVENTION FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Honorable John W. Holcomb
United States District Judge

EXHIBIT 1

Although not much seemed to be happening recently with regard to the feds' conflict with UC/UCLA, perhaps leading to thought that those leading the charge had turned their attention elsewhere, it appears that UCLA is not forgotten.

On January 28, the US Department of Justice filed a reverse discrimination complaint against the UCLA med school with regard to admissions, citing the US Supreme Court's anti-affirmative action decision. It basically asks to join ("intervene" in) a case filed by two private organizations: Do No Harm and Students for Fair Admissions. Also included is an individual who was rejected for admission.

The case is heavily focused on the dean of admissions of the med school who was appointed in 2020. It argues that the admissions process discriminates against White and Asian applicants.

The original case (May 2025) is at:

https://litigationtracker.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Do-No-Harm_2025.05.08._COMPLAINT.pdf, and revised (Dec. 2025) at:

politics (2413) UC (2114) UC Regents (1894) health care (1428) State Budget (1278) governor (1127) diversity (987) UC budget crisis (973) UC-Berkeley (915) pension (663) pensions (594) admissions (550) athletics (545) tuition (534) CSU (415) transportation (398) UC-Davis (377) online education (339) UCOP (313) uc retirement (309) traffic (301) ucrp (301) audio (291) UC enrollment (284) new hotel-conference center (282) UC-San Diego (265) enrollment (261) community colleges (248) LAO (233) UC-Irvine (185) fund raising (169) UC-Santa Barbara (163) UC-San Francisco (160) UC-Santa Cruz (159) controller (150) faculty center (144) UC-Riverside (142) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (117) Master Plan (110) faculty pay (109) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (61) parking (61) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (35) copyright (35) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (15) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UCpolitics (4) UC Irvine (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

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https://litigationtracker.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Do-No-Harm-et-al-v.-David-Geffen-School-of-Medicine-at-UCLA-et-al_2025.12.23_SECOND-AMENDED-COMPLAINT.pdf.

The DOJ's request to join the above case is at:

https://donoharmmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/77_USA-Motion-to-Intervene.pdf.

The DOJ's proposed complaint against UCLA is at:

https://donoharmmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/77-2-USA-proposed-complaint.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, diversity, health care, politics, UCLA

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Rules of the Common-Wheel of UCLA

From the Bruin: *All electric scooters and bikes used on campus or stored in UCLA-owned housing must be certified and registered starting Nov. 20, UCLA administrators [have] announced. Electric personal mobility devices – which include personal e-scooters, e-bike and e-skateboards – must be UL-certified and registered with UCLA Transportation to promote campus safety, according to [an] email sent by Michael Beck, administrative vice chancellor, Monroe Gorden, vice chancellor for student affairs and Steve Lurie, associate vice chancellor for campus and community safety.*

UL-certification is a safety standard that confirms a device's battery and electrical parts have been tested to prevent mechanical failure, shock and fire, the administrators added in the email. They also said in the email that registration will make it easier to identify lost or stolen devices and return them to their rightful owners...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/01/26/ucla-announces-registration-certification-mandate-for-electric-scooters-bikes.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: transportation, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 240

From Inside Higher Ed: *George Washington University is pausing admissions to five Ph.D. programs for fall 2026, citing financial hardships. According to social media posts, applicants to the programs received emails last week alerting them that the programs "will not be reviewing*

► 2015 (765)
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► 2013 (776)
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► 2011 (738)
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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

applications for the 2026–2027 academic year." The emails went on to say that their application fees would be refunded and offered them the opportunity to be considered for master's programs instead. The Ph.D. programs affected are in clinical psychology, anthropology, human paleobiology, political science and mathematics. A university spokesperson attributed the pauses to financial difficulties.

...The suspensions follow other instances of high-profile institutions slashing admissions to Ph.D. programs due to budget concerns, including Boston University, the University of Chicago and Harvard University. In a recent Faculty Senate meeting, GWU president Ellen Granberg asked the university's schools and divisions to prepare "budget contingency plans" amid declines in applications from international students, the student newspaper, The GW Hatchet, reported. International students accounted for about 13 percent of the institution's enrollment this fall, a decrease from the previous year...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/graduate-students-and-postdocs/2026/01/26/george-washington-u-pauses-admissions-5-phd.

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From the Daily Princetonian: *...The University [has] released its annual Report of the Treasurer. Following a tumultuous year for higher education across the country, the report emphasizes the University's lab partnerships with federal departments, close ties to active-duty soldiers and veterans, and involvement in AI and public service. The report, entitled "In the Nation's Service," comes after approximately $200 million in research-specific funding was suspended last year by the Trump administration, then partially reinstated over the summer...*

Princeton spent $283 million in total financial aid contributions in 2024–25 and saw its largest ever number of Pell Grant recipients. Most families that make less than $250,000 per year pay no tuition. The University is potentially facing a new 8 percent endowment tax from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which applies to universities with endowments of over $2 million per student and a tuition-paying population of at least 3,000.

With a projected increase of financial aid spending to $327 million in 2025–26, ***there is a possibility that the University will avoid the endowment tax by having under 3,000 tuition-paying students****. The University has previously declined to comment on the endowment tax and the number of students that pay tuition...*

Full story at https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2026/01/princeton-news-adpol-2025-treasurer-report-emphasizes-princeton-nations-service.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Boston University, George Washington U, Harvard, politics, Princeton U, U of Chicago

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 113

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard faculty awarded significantly fewer A grades in the fall, cutting the share of top marks by nearly seven percentage points after the College urged instructors to combat grade inflation... The share of flat As fell from 60.2 percent in the 2024-2025 academic year to 53.4 percent in the fall. The decline follows a 25-page report [Dean of Undergraduate Education Amanda] Claybaugh released in October 2025 arguing that grade inflation had rendered the College's grading system unable to "perform the key functions of grading" and encouraging stricter academic measures, including standardized grading across sections and in-person final exams.*

Claybaugh explicitly sought to reassure faculty concerned that harsher grading could hurt their teaching evaluations... and course enrollments — offering the clearest signal yet that the College is prepared to back instructors who tighten grading standards... A faculty committee charged with reviewing the College's existing grading policies would release new proposals early in the spring semester...

Many undergraduates have expressed concern that efforts to rein in grade inflation could disadvantage them in graduate schools admissions and the job market.

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/1/27/faculty-cut-a-grades/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Quiet Time

If you look back at special closed-door Regents meetings to deal with the conflict with the feds, quite a few occurred in calendar 2025.* There were two such meetings in January 2026. Those more recent meetings were short, suggesting that there weren't developments that required much deliberation.

If we look ahead, no such closed meetings are currently on the schedule for February and beyond, suggesting that in terms of actual negotiations with the feds, things are pretty quiet.

Perhaps the feds' attention has turned more toward Greenland, or Iran, or Minneapolis, and away from UCLA in terms of negotiations. They haven't entirely forgotten about us, as a posting tomorrow will discuss. But it is reasonable to surmise that whatever discussions were going on have been paused.

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*https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/past-meetings/2021-2025.html#. Click on 2025.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UCLA

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